#### Money-Saving Repairs & Maintenance Shortcuts



Spencer used part of the steering rod on an older Ford 8N to replace the bad back joints on his 1951 model.

## **Space-Saving Idea For Storing Metal Cut-Offs**

A New Jersey farmer-fabricator came up with a couple of space-saving ideas to store metal cut-offs in his shop. He says they were inexpensive to set up and make it easier to find whatever he needs when he needs it.

Eric Petrevich slides lengths of cutoff square tubing onto a shelf under his workbench and neatly stacks them. Then he slides smaller pieces of tubing, angle iron, metal rods, or flat stock inside the tubing, which holds them nicely. He also uses big plastic bins on the same shelf to store lighter stuff, such as aluminum and composite materials.

A large, homemade wooden "drawer" measuring 4 ft. long by 44 in. wide with 1-ft. high sides fits under the shelf and is used to store larger, irregular size pieces. The box sets on top of 3-in. high wooden skids, allowing Petrevich to use a pallet jack to move the box in or out from under the shelf.

'The drawer stores the cut-off pieces nicely out of the way, and whenever I need something I use the pallet jack to pull the



Cut-off square tubing is stacked on shelf under workbench, with smaller pieces of tubing slid inside them.

drawer out," says Petrevich. " I root through the cut-offs to find what I need, then slide the drawer back under the shelf. It saves a lot of space, and allows me to use more cut-offs, and find them easier than before."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eric Petrevich, Glen Gardner, N.J. (farmshow@ megageek.com).

#### Simple "Steering Fix" **For Ford 8N Tractor** adjustment. "I cut off pieces of the adjustment

"My 1951 Ford 8N tractor had bad steering joint ends when I bought it back in 1987. I modified the steering rod so that the tractor steers a lot tighter now, with no wheel wobble at all. Makes the tractor fun to drive again." says Duane Spencer, DeFuniak Springs, Fla.

He bought the tractor to replace a 1949 Ford 8N with a bad transmission that he now uses for parts. "I decided to use part of the steering rod on the 1949 model to replace the bad back joints on the 1951 model.

The steering rods consist of a long rod with a short piece of hollow threaded rod between the back and the front joint for toe-in

Tac Glue<sup>TM</sup> Great For Fixes

Tac Glue<sup>™</sup> adhesive won't dry up in an open bottle and it works on most materials. It dries quickly once applied and sells at a reasonable price considering that it provides industrial strength, according to Tac Glue owner, Seth Ross, noting that it's actually been on the market for more than 20 years.

"It's a premium grade formula that's very pure," he says, noting that it's anaerobic so it doesn't harden until it's applied, and has a long shelf life, especially when refrigerated.

Customers include people who fix vehicles or equipment because Tac Glue can be mixed with filler materials to be an epoxy replacement. The company's brand, X-Fillers, has strong shear and tensile strength to rebuild radiators and automotive structural plastics. Baking soda can also be used as a filler for some projects.

Sporting customers use it for arrow fletching, lure making, and taxidermy, for example.

It's ideal for all types of temporary repairs including sealing skin cuts. Artists, fishermen, hunters and farmers are all customers.

"In the field, people use it for temporary irrigation remedies," he says. "People have used it off-roading. It's saved them, to fix a fan belt, or put on a radiator leak.

Tac Glue comes in thin viscosity glue for most materials: plastic, rubber, metal, wood, stone, glass and ceramics, for example. A



rods from the 1949 model and welded them

in to lengthen the adjustment rods on the

1951 so I could use short-style rear joints

which I was able to purchase (couldn't find

of the hollow rod, I used part of a mobile

home tie-down rod to strengthen the weld.

This repair made the steering a lot tighter."

Spencer, 503 Kings Lake Blvd., DeFuniak

Springs, Fla. 32433 (duaneduane27@

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"When I cut and welded the added length

the longer rods).

outlook.com)

Tac Glue doesn't harden until applied and has a long shelf life.

little bit goes a long way and the glue dries in seconds

The gel version works best on porous materials like ceramic and wood, and it allows time to reposition the pieces being glued together.

Both versions cost \$10 for a 20-gram bottle or \$15 for a 50-gram bottle.

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### **DIY Powder Coating Better Than Paint**

Todd Schminke says that if you have some metal parts to paint, you're better off with "do it yourself" powder-coating. It's cheaper, and the coating lasts longer.

Schminke was frustrated when a receiver hitch holder he built started rusting. He was tired of his various receiver hitches rolling around in the back of his truck, so he designed and built a 5-hitch holder.

"I spray-painted it, but I wasn't happy with the durability of the paint," says Schminke. "After a time, it started flaking and rusting."

By then, Schminke was selling his hitch holders. He prices them at \$30 for a 2-hitch unit and \$10 for each additional holding pocket. He looked into custom powder coating, but the cost was more than the hitches were worth

That's when he came across a solution at

www.eastwood.com. Eastwood sells a \$900 professional powder coating system and a \$5,400 4 by 4 by 6-ft. oven, but they also have starter kits for as little as \$52.97. The kits include an 11,000-volt electrode gun, black powder and all the accessories needed. The company website also includes how-to information. All Schminke had to provide was a low-pressure air line and an oven capable of reaching 400 to 500F.

"It's not bad to do," he says. "I use a standard home oven and powder coat all my hitch holders. I've even started doing some custom powder coating for others."

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Scaffold has a fixed set of 4 vertical support pipes and a 4 by 8-ft. platform that can be raised up to 9 ft. high.

# **Engine Hoist "Scaffold" Works Great To Install Ceiling**

Dean Aasheim, Canton, S. Dak., converted a rolling engine hoist into a handy scaffold that makes it easier to work on 14-ft. ceilings inside a building he added onto his mobile home.

The scaffold extends up to 9 ft. in height. It has a fixed set of 4 vertical 1 1/4-in. support pipes and a 4 by 8-ft. platform that can be raised or lowered to any spot on the pipes. Aasheim welded a short length of 1-in. tubing to the hoist's arm, and also welded a long horizontal bar to an angle iron frame that supports the platform. A bolt that runs through the bar serves as a pivot point, allowing the platform to remain level as it's raised or lowered.

The old engine hoist rides on 4 swivel

caster wheels with a hand-pumped jack. He bolted together sheets of 1/2-in. plywood to form an enclosure that stabilizes the scaffold. The enclosure was made by bolting the plywood sheets onto angle iron brackets. welded to each of the scaffold support pipes.

He cut 2 handholds into one end of the enclosure. "To move the scaffold I jack up the hoist until the far end of the scaffold is just high enough to clear the floor, then grab the handholds and roll the scaffold around," says Aasheim.

"With the platform set at 7 1/2 ft. I can stand and easily reach the top of the roof."

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